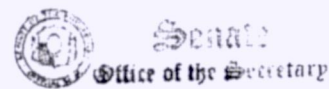


SENATE  
S. No. 587



19 JUL 17 P5:55

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RECEIVED

**AN ACT  
PROMOTING INTEGRATED URBAN FARMING TO ADDRESS FOOD  
SECURITY CONCERNS AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE**

Explanatory Note

The Philippines is widely considered as an agricultural economy as agriculture is one of the main drivers of its economic growth. According to the April 2018 Labor Force Survey of the Philippine Statistics Authority, this important sector employs some 23.9% of Filipino workforce – making it the second largest sector in terms of labor force.

As testament to the relevance of agriculture, the 1987 Philippine Constitution laid down some principles that promote and protect this sector, both directly and indirectly, such as:

- "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all." (Article II, Section 9);
- "The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the

people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.” (Article XII, Section 1); and,

- “The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full of efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. XXX.” (Article XII, Section 1)

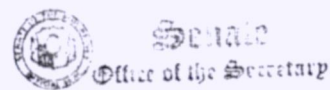
However, amid these constitutional provisions that afford the agricultural sector the utmost support it needs, many still consider it as the “poor man's sector” because it remains to be neglected in terms of investments and development. In fact, farmers and fisherfolks are still among the poorest in the country; and food security remains elusive to a lot of Filipinos. In 2018, according to a Social Weather Station survey, 19 million or our people experienced hunger – with 10 million experiencing severe hunger.

Hence, to further advance agriculture and food security, this measure aims to promote the practice of urban farming. Urban farming, as enshrined in this bill, is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around a village, town or city which could also involve animal agriculture, aquaculture and agroforestry, among others. It is one way to promote food security as it will provide citizens easy access to several agricultural products right within their cities and/or communities.

In addition, under this measure, urban agriculture and vertical farming shall be integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level students of both public and private academic institutions offering courses on Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to agriculture. All elementary and secondary schools—public or private—, and state colleges and universities shall likewise implement urban gardening/agriculture and include in its regular curriculum its practical application.

It is the hope of this measure that the Philippines benefit from this form of agriculture in the same way that other countries that implement urban farming have. In this light, the approval of this bill is fervently sought.

*Grace Poe*  
GRACE POE  
*res*



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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1       Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Integrated Urban  
2       Agriculture Act.”

3       Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
4       reaffirm the fundamental right of every person to adequate food and to be free from  
5       hunger. The achievement of self-sufficiency in food production and building climate  
6       resilient communities is therefore adopted as primary state policy. Towards this end,  
7       key reforms for the development of modern, appropriate, cost-effective and  
8       environmentally safe agriculture technologies are hereby encouraged in order to  
9       ensure the food security of the country.

10       Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purpose of this Act, the term:

11               3.1. *Integrated Urban Agriculture* – shall refer to the practice of  
12       cultivating, processing and distribution of food in, or around a village, town or  
13       city. Integrated Urban agriculture also involves animal husbandry,  
14       aquaculture, agro-forestry and horticulture.

15               3.2. *Vertical Farming* – shall refer to the method of farming that is  
16       brought to the urban space by employing the concepts of indoor agriculture in  
17       sky scrapers and other modern buildings.

1           Sec. 4. *Comprehensive Research on Integrated Urban Farming.* – For the  
2 purpose of this Act, the respective Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA)  
3 and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are hereby mandated to  
4 promote the use of integrated urban agriculture and vertical farming in the country's  
5 metropolitan areas as an instrument to address food security concerns and  
6 regenerate ecosystem function of the Philippines.

7           Idle and/or abandoned government lots and buildings owned by either  
8 national and local governments or available land resources in state universities and  
9 colleges shall be considered for growing crops, raising livestock and producing food  
10 using the said methods.

11           Safety standards must be followed such that DOST and other pertinent  
12 agencies should include research and development of appropriate technologies  
13 necessary in promoting integrated agriculture technologies.

14           Sec. 5. *Inclusion of Urban Agriculture and Vertical Farming in Agricultural*  
15 *Training.* – Urban agriculture and vertical farming used in agricultural production  
16 shall be integrated in the academic curriculum for secondary and tertiary level  
17 students of both public and private academic institutions offering courses on  
18 Agriculture, Practical Arts, Home Economics and/or other subjects related to  
19 agriculture. A course curriculum on gardening/urban gardening shall also be  
20 developed and included into the regular curriculum of both elementary and  
21 secondary education.

22           All elementary and secondary schools – public or private –, state colleges and  
23 universities shall implement urban gardening/agriculture and include in its regular  
24 curriculum its practical or on-hand application.

25           For universities and colleges, urban gardening or agriculture shall form part of  
26 the required period of time spent by students in the National Service Training  
27 Program (NSTP) or the Citizen Military Training (CMT). A plan therefore for the  
28 utilization or the maximization of space occupied by schools shall be formulated  
29 specifically for urban gardening/agriculture. Instructional materials shall also be  
30 developed.

31           The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission  
32 on Higher Education (CHED). Shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations

1 for the implementation of this section within six (6) months from the date of  
2 effectively hereof.

3       SEC. 6. *Creation and Composition of the Urban Farming Council (UFC).* –

4 There is hereby established an Urban Farming Council (UFC) which shall be attached  
5 to the Department of Agriculture. The UFC shall be composed of the following  
6 members:

7       (a) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) who shall serve as  
8 Chair of the UFC;

9       (b) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
10 (DENR);

11       (c) The Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF);

12       (d) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);

13       (e) Representative from the People's Organizations (PO);

14       (f) Representative from the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO);

15       (g) Representative from the National Urban Poor Sector Council of the  
16 National Anti-Poverty Commission (NUPSC-NAPC);

17       (h) The National President of the League of the Cities of the Philippines;

18       (i) The National President of the League of the Municipalities of the  
19 Philippines; and,

20       (j) Representative from the private sector who have expertise in urban  
21 farming and/or vertical farming.

22       Sec. 7. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this  
23 Act shall be equivalent to two percent (2%) of the annual appropriations of the  
24 Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST),  
25 Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the  
26 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

27       Sec. 8. *Local Government Units Participation.* – The local government units  
28 shall formulate the policy on the practice of urban farming and the utilization of  
29 unused spaces and idle lands. This shall require the enactment of local legislation  
30 institutionalizing urban gardening or agriculture in all levels of the LGU. Further, this  
31 shall require local governments to enact measures or ordinances that will include

1 urban gardening/agriculture as a regular component in budget appropriations of  
2 local government units.

3 All cities and urbanized municipalities where urban farming activities are  
4 conducted shall extend whatever assistance necessary for the urban  
5 practitioners/farmers to exercise Urban Farming and benefit from any incentives  
6 under this Act.

7 All homeowners associations, neighborhood associations and community  
8 associations and/or people's organizations are encouraged to participate in urban  
9 farming activities within their area of operations. The concerned LGU shall grant  
10 necessary incentives for the benefit of the members of the concerned associations or  
11 people's organizations who actively participate in urban farming activities.

12 *Sec. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months from the  
13 date of effectivity of this Act, the DA, the DOST, the DepEd, the CHED, the DILG,  
14 and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) through the National Urban Poor  
15 Sector Council (NUPSC), in consultation with the private sector, business groups,  
16 input providers, consumer groups, informal settlers and most vulnerable sectors,  
17 non-government organizations and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the  
18 necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this  
19 Act.

20 *Sec. 10. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
21 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected  
22 shall remain valid and subsisting.

23 *Sec. 11. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
24 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary  
25 to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed, modified or  
26 amended accordingly.

27 *Sec. 12. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from  
28 the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of  
29 general circulation.

*Approved,*